

MARY CORNELIA HAYS ROSS.

APRIL 12, 1904.—Ordered to be printed.

Mr. BALL, from the Committee on Pensions, submitted the following

REPORT.

[To accompany S. 3935.]

The Committee on Pensions, to whom was referred the bill (S. 3935) granting a pension to Mary Cornelia Hays Ross, have examined the same and report:

It is proposed by this bill, as amended, to increase from \$20 to \$30 per month the pension of Mary Cornelia Hays Ross, widow of Henry Schuyler Ross, late first assistant engineer and captain, U. S. Navy, retired.

Henry Schuyler Ross was born in the city of Buffalo, N. Y., January 15, 1842, and died in Lugano, Italy, October 15, 1902, where he had gone in the hopes of regaining his health. He was educated in the public schools of Buffalo, and was a descendant of Joseph Ross, who fought with Israel Putnam in the colonial wars, and Ebenezer Ross of the Eleventh Connecticut Infantry in the war of the Revolution.

He was appointed third assistant engineer in the United States Navy November 17, 1862; was promoted second assistant engineer March 23, 1864; first assistant engineer January 1, 1868; chief engineer January 28, 1890; took rank as commander May 10, 1897, and was retired with rank of captain from June 30, 1899.

During the war of the rebellion he participated in several bombardments of Confederate forts on the Atlantic coast and on the James River, and also did duty in blockading squadrons. At the outbreak of the war with Spain he was chief engineer of the European Squadron, but was ordered home and did effective work on the New England coast and in the north Cuban blockading squadron until November, 1898.

Mrs. Ross is now receiving a general-law pension of \$20 per month, it having been determined by the Pension Bureau that her husband died in consequence of disease contracted while serving as first assistant engineer in the Navy with relative rank of master. She was married to the officer November 25, 1879, and is now 48 years of age.

Evidence accompanying the bill shows that Mrs. Ross's possessions are bonds of the value of \$5,000, bearing interest at the rate of 5 per

cent yearly. Apart from this she has no other sources of support, and has no relative or other person upon whom she can depend for support. It is also in evidence that she is an invalid, requiring considerable medical treatment involving large expense, and is physically unable to support herself.

In consideration of the officer's long and faithful service, and in the light of numerous precedents for increasing pension in cases of this character, your committee report the bill back favorably with a recommendation that it pass when amended as follows:

Strike out all after the enacting clause and insert:

That the Secretary of the Interior be, and he is hereby, authorized and directed to place on the pension roll, subject to the provisions and limitations of the pension laws, the name of Mary Cornelia Hays Ross, widow of Henry Schuyler Ross, late first assistant engineer and captain, United States Navy, retired, and pay her a pension at the rate of thirty dollars per month in lieu of that she is now receiving.

Also amend the title so as to read: "A bill granting an increase of pension to Mary Cornelia Hays Ross."

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